[This transcript was created by LAI staff. It is as true a representation of the original as we could create. When a word was too difficult to decipher or was questionable we put those words in brackets. All text in brackets represents the voice of the transcriber rather than the voice of the letter writer. We have not maintained the spacing that exists in the original letters because that was not compliant with our accessibility standards. We are left justifying most lines.]

[citation information]
Collection title: Corcoran Gallery of Art and Corcoran College of Art + Design, Corcoran Gallery of Art directors' records
collection number: COR-0002-0-RG
Series 1: MacLeod, Barbarin and McGuire records
Subseries 1: Indexed correspondence
Box 2008-001
Folder 11: Letters 101-110

[Letter #101]

LHerbette Kane and Co
Paris August 6, 1873
Encloses legalized invoice of 3 cases, shipped Aug. 8./73 from Havre

Lherbette Kane and Co
Paris
33 Rue du Quatre Septembre
Havre
87 Place du Commerce

North German Lloyd Steamships
Entre Le Havre New York Baltimore
Nouvelle Orleans, Havane & Les Antilles
Paris 5 Aug. 1873
A Hyde Esq
Washington

Dear Sir,
We beg to enclose legalized invoice of 3 cases marked “Corcoran Gallery of Art”. ⅓ [1 of 3] of which we have shipped you through our Havre firm per “Berlin”-8th [month?]
We are [illegible] Sir.
Yours truly,
[per?] Lherbette Kane
[illegible signature]

[Letter #102]

Secretary of the Treasy [Treasury]
Aug. 18, 1873

Collector of Customs at Baltimore has been instructed to admit free of entry, three cases, and forward them unopened to Georgetown D.C.

[Written on US Treasury Department Stationary]
August 18, 1873
[19 Aug is written over the August 18, 1873 in red pencil]

Sir:
You are respectfully informed that the Collector of Customs at Baltimore-to whom you are referred- has been this day instructed to admit to free entry, certain three cases of Pictures which, the Department is advised, are expected to arrive at that port per steamer “Berlin” from Southampton, intended for the use of the Corcoran Art Gallery of Washington D.C., and also to forward said cases, unopened, to the port of Georgetown D.C. I am, very respectfully, A. Hyde Esq.,
Secretary, Corcoran Art Gallery,
Washington, D.C.

[Illegible signature]
Acting Secretary

[Letter #103]

W.T. Walters & Co.
Aug 19, 1873

Upon arrival of pictures, will attend to the Custom House busi-ness necessary.

Balto [Baltimore] Aug. 19, 1873
A.Hyde Esq.
Secr [secretary] Corcoran Gallery of Art
Washington DC

Dear Sir

[We?] this morning telegraph you [illegible] on your sending to us the paper relating to the Pictures coming per Steamship Berlin we would attend to the Custom House business necessary on their arrival.
[We now wish?] to re-assure you that our service in the matter will be to us a personal pleasure.

Very Truly Yours
WT. Walters & CO

[Letter #104]

W. T. Walters & Co.
Aug. 23, 1973

Upon the arrival of Ship, will attend to passing and forwarding of the goods.

Balti [Baltimore] Aug. 23, 1873
Mr. A. Hyde, Secretary
Corcoran Gallery of Art
[Washington?]

[Dear Sir?]
We have to acknowledge [illegible] [today, will?] Certified Invoice of [planned?] Pictures per steamer Berlin [for?] the Corcoran Gallery of Art.
On the arrival of the ship we will attend promptly to passing the goods +[and] forwarding them to you.
Very Truly Yours,
W.T. Walters & CO

[Letter #105]

W.T. Walters & Co.
Aug 26, 1873

Has surrendered Bill of Lading to Custom House. Has paid $1.75 Drayage.

Balto [Baltimore] Aug. 26, 1873
Mr. A. Hyde Secretary
Corcoran Gallery of Art
Washington DC

Dear Sir

The [illegible] Custom House here has claimed the Bill of Lading + [and] we have surrendered it, with the endorsement that you had not received the Pictures, but that they had been sent to you, care of us [collected?] [at?] Georgetown.
The Custom House has handed us back the Certified Invoice, [for now we enclose it to you?].
We have paid $1.75 Drayage [on?] the goods here, which you can adjust at your convenience.
Yours Truly,
W.T. Walters & Co

Paris. 4th August 1873

[G.A.?] Lucas

[Included with the letter and invoice, a typed Declaration where goods, wares and merchandise have been purchased. Written in both French and English. The French portion of the Declaration is signed by LHerbette Kane & Co and pertains to the shipping of the goods to Baltimore, while the English portion is signed by John Meredith Read, Jr, the U.S. Consul General in Paris, and concerns the goods being delivered and their value.]

[Letter #106]

Jacob H. Studer
Sept. 3, 1873
Columbus Ohio

Offers three oil paintings for sale.
1. Italian Landscape [by?] Salvator Rosa
2. The Battle of the Camperdown [by?] Spencer
3. Pluto (reclining)

Columbus Ohio Sept. 3rd 1873
Mr. Mr. Mr. Corcoran
Washington City
Dear Sirs,
I am the owner of three oil paintings that were purchased [originally?] and imported by Mr. [Felves?] for his Art Gallery [at?] [illegible] [illegible], while after his death was disposed of; One of the paintings, an [Italian's?] [Lucid?] [illegible] representing a rescue by monks near a monastary [monastery] of [illegible] from shipwreck, is by Salvator Rosa, and is over 300 years old. The drawing of the figures [etc.?] is very [illegible], the size of the painting is 6x8 feet, the size of the [frames?] 9 inches. The painting was shipwrecked itself and suffered by being immersed in salt water on its transportation to this country. The painting is said to have cost originally [$7000?] [illegible].

Another of the paintings represents a battle on the seas between the English and the Hollanders in 1797 called the Battle of Camperdown. British men of war in foreground, one of the Hollander vessels on fire, and others [illegible] visible through the [smoke?], painted by Spencer of London and is about 75 years old.

The other one represents Pluto reclining back and resting with his left on Cerberus, framed in an oval, old style, and a little damaged, painted in the time of [Rubens?], as can be plainly seen in the application of anatomy.

I am in gaged [engaged?] in the publication of a book, of which the inclosed [enclosed?] circular will inform you, I have a [illegible] in [illegible] and completing the [illegible], five parts I expect to have our [illegible]. I have invested all my ready means and desire to disperse of those 3 paintings, and have them go to [illegible] they [illegible] belong to an art gallery.

As for the value, pleased [our?] [items?], and the amount to be paid me for [these?] [three?] will be no serious differences. Am willing to talk much [illegible] [illegible] they are really [illegible] if you or your representative would come and examine them I am satisfied we could come to [such?] terms, that you would consider very reasonable.

Trusting that you will give this letter attention, and thereby obtain three valuable paintings as an addition to your gallery, and at the same time [assist?] me in continuing to publish the new work.
[Illegible]
Yours very truly,
Jacob H. Studer

[Letter #107]

Dr. J.C. Hall
Sept. 4, 1873

Asks for a copy of Resolutions as passed at the last meeting, in relation to the duties & compensation of curator.

Dr. Mr. Hyde
Please oblige me by sending me a copy of the Resolution [passed?] at the last meeting in relation to the duties +[and] compensation of a curator of the Gallery
[Yours?] truly
J. C. Hall
Thursday Sept.4th ‘73

[Letter #108]

W.T. Walters

Sept. 19. 1873

W. T. Walters
Paris Sept. 19. 1873.

Has purchased ⅔ of all the Bronzes by Barye, cost [illegible] to exceed 2000 fr.
Has ordered a collection of reproductions from the original of vase, cups, plates, dishes [&?] discovered in an excavation made at Hildesheim on the site of a former Roman camp, to cost about 2500 fr.

Has decided to invest about 3000 fr in Porcelain Payence & objects to illustrate this branch.
Some months will elapse before orders are completed Expect to sail about Nov 1. for home

[Letter #109]

Secy. of the Treasy.
Sept. 22. 1873

Instructions have been issued to the collectors at Baltimore and Georgetown to allow 3 cases of pictures to pass without examination until they reach the Gallery.

Paris 19 Sept 73 [Oct 24? 73 is written over the 19th of Sept. date]
Mr A. Hyde Sect

Since my last 2 [illegible] had the pleasure of hearing from you - I found at [illegible] - [illegible] some Pictures for sale, [illegible] held at prices which I did not feel warranted to pay - I however [hand-made?] offers and have had some [treaty?] in regard to several works which I still hope to secure.

I had a selection of the Bronzes of Barye arranged for pricing inspection and from which [illegible] resulted that I felt even more confirmed of the [illegible] of this feature than I had supposed, I have therefore purchased about ⅔ of all [the?] things he has produced at a cost [illegible] This whole [illegible] [exceeding?] 2000 fr-

The objects discovered in an excavation made at Hildesheim on the site of a former Roman camp have been reproduced from the originals so perfectly - and being so wonderfully beautiful as works of art they are already to be seen in about every Museum in [Europe?] They consist of vases, cups, plates - dishes [illegible] - I have ordered this collection also as a cost of about 2500 fr -

I have also decided to invest about 3000 fr in Porcelain [Payence?] [illegible] and objects to illustrate this branch - So that after their [illegible] in a few months The Trustees will have before them sufficient examples in these departments to decide as to the policy of extending these

[features?] - since [two?] months, at London, Paris, + [and] Rome I have had orders in hand for all the [illegible] was the design of the Trustees to [command?] and I have been [illegible] Their completion with [illegible] [illegible] [but?] I am sure that while the shipment will begin very soon some months [must] elapse before the orders are completed.

I have recently decided to return to the U States-sailing 1st Nov so that by the 15th or 20th I shall have the pleasure of meeting and confering with the Trustees I hope- but before my departure I shall visit both Rome + [and] London as well as this city again and will be able to report with [illegible] particularity after them-

With kind regards to Mr. Corcoran and the Trustees I and very respectfully your friend
W.T Walters

[Letter #110]

W.T. Walters & Co
Sept. 23, 1873
Baltimore

Has sent one large case by Adams & Co Express

Balti Sept. 23, 1873
Mr. A. Hyde Secretary
Corcoran Gallery of Art
Wash DC

[Illegible]

We have today sent by Adams & Co Express one large case marked Corcoran Gallery of Art Care of US Customs Collector, Georgetown DC.
The two cases remaining [illegible] [illegible] hope, go to [illegible] of which you [shall?] be advised

The collector here has [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] regarding this lot, so that he acted under the order applying to the previous invoice + [and] [illegible] the cases shipped to Care of Georgetown Collector.

The cases sent today looked as though I had been [illegible [illegible]] on shipboard with some [roughness?] We must [illegible] [of?] contents are sound.

The two remaining cases seem in good order. [Mr. McCoy?] [begets?] [illegible]
Kind Regards
Very Truly Yours

W.T. Walters & Co

[Included with the letter, is a Treasury Department Document date Sept. 22, 1873.]

Sir:
The department is in receipt of your letter of the 22nd instant, requesting that 3 cases of pictures to arrive at Baltimore per Steamer 'Ohio" from Southampton for the Corcoran Gallery of Art, may be allowed to pass through that port without escamination, and examined here by the Georgetown Customs officers, and in accordance with said request the necessary instructions have this day been issued to the Collectors at Baltimore and Georgetown.

The Bill of Lading enclosed in your letter is herewith returned. Very Respectfully
Mr. A. [Illegible] Mr. A. Hyde Esq. Sec. C.A.G. Washington D.C.
Secretary